

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3-4, and 6 are amended. Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

On page 2, numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino et al. (United States Patent No. 5,742,571) (hereinafter, "Hoshino"). The reasons for the rejections are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated.

AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS 1, 3-4, AND 6

Claims 1, 3-4, and 6 are amended. Each of amended claims 1, 3-4, and 6 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon by the Examiner and is supported by the originally filed specification.

Referring to the reference relied upon by the Examiner, attention is directed to Hoshino. Hoshino relates to a disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus that selectively chucks a plurality of discs housed in a turntable and is able to record and/or reproduce information on and/or from an optional position of an optical disk. Column 1, lines 9-14. An object of Hoshino is to simplify the structure of the motor control system by reducing the number of motors used from three to two. Column 2, lines 44-53. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 5, the simplified motor control system includes a table rotating mechanism 17 having a table rotating motor 18 with a driving pulley 18a fitted to a driving shaft thereof, a worm gear 19 to one end of which a driven pulley 19a is attached and which is connected with the driving pulley 18a through a driving belt so that driving power can be transmitted, a pinion 20 engaged with the worm gear 19, and a table rotating gear 21 which is integrally rotated together with the pinion 20 and engaged with the inner gear portion 4a of the turntable 4. FIGS. 2 and 5; Column 11, lines 9-21.

Amended claim 1 of the present application recites: "... a driving gear rotating while geared directly to both the worm gear and the gear provided on the roulette, transmitting power generated from the motor to the roulette." Thus, the driving gear is geared directly to both the worm gear and the gear provided on the roulette.

Hoshino does not teach or suggest "a driving gear rotating while geared directly to both the worm gear and the gear provided on the roulette, transmitting power generated from the motor to the roulette," as claimed in claim 1 of the present application. Instead, Hoshino

discloses using driving and driven pulleys and belts to transmit power between the motor and the roulette. See FIGS. 2 and 5. Hoshino provides a detailed discussion of the use of such driving and driven pulleys and belts in the specification. Specifically, Hoshino discloses “a table rotating motor 18 is rotated to transmit the torque of the driving shaft thereof from the driving pulley 18a through the drive belt 33 to the driven pulley 19a and then transmitted from the worm gear 19 integrally rotated in the rotation direction together with the driven pulley 19a to the pinion 20 engaged with the worm gear 19. The table rotating gear 21 is integrally fitted to the pinion 20, so that the turntable 4 is rotated in the counterclockwise direction L in FIG. 10 through the inner gear portion 4a engaged with the table rotating gear 21.” Thus, by using pulleys and belts to drive the turntable (roulette), Hoshino does not teach or suggest having the driving gear directly geared to both the worm gear and the gear provided on the roulette.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is distinguishable over the reference relied upon by the Examiner.

Independent claims 3, 4, and 6 are amended to recite similar claim language. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above that claim 1 distinguishes over the reference relied upon by the Examiner, claims 3, 4, and 6 also patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 5, and 7 depend from independent claims 1, 4, and 6, respectively, and patentably distinguish over the references relied upon by the Examiner for at least the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

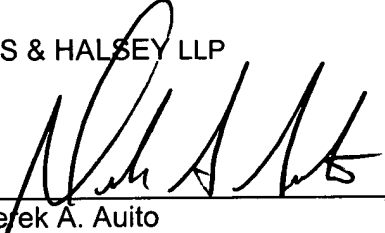
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Derek A. Auito
Registration No. 52,576

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501